

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-18. (Canceled)

19 (previously presented). A gallium nitride semiconductor laser device having emission wavelengths within a band corresponding to ultraviolet to green, comprising a semiconductor substrate, an active layer having a quantum well structure and made of nitride semiconductor containing at least indium and gallium, and a first cladding layer and a second cladding layer for sandwiching the active layer therebetween,

wherein the active layer consists of two to four quantum well layers and one to three barrier layers each interposed between the quantum well layers, and the one or each barrier layer has a layer thickness of 4 nm or less, and the active layer forms an oscillating section of the semiconductor laser device, and

wherein the semiconductor laser device is a self-oscillating semiconductor laser device.

20-21. (Canceled)

22 (Previously Presented). A gallium nitride semiconductor laser device having emission wavelengths within a band corresponding to ultraviolet to green, comprising a semiconductor substrate, an active layer having a quantum well structure and made of nitride semiconductor containing at least indium and gallium, and a first cladding layer and a second cladding layer for sandwiching the active layer therebetween,

wherein the active layer forms an oscillating section of the semiconductor laser device, and consists of two to four quantum well layers and one to three barrier layers each interposed between the quantum well layers, and the one or each barrier layer has a layer thickness of 4 nm or less, and

wherein one of the first and second cladding layers is a p-type cladding layer, and the p-type cladding layer has a ridge portion and a planar portion on opposite sides of the ridge portion.

23 (Previously Presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, wherein the ridge has a width of about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

24 (Previously Presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, wherein said planar portion has a film thickness of 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

25-29. (Canceled)

30 (previously presented). A gallium nitride semiconductor laser device having emission wavelengths within a band corresponding to ultraviolet to green, comprising a semiconductor substrate, an active layer having a quantum well structure and made of a nitride semiconductor containing at least indium and gallium, and a first cladding layer and a second cladding layer for sandwiching the active layer therebetween,

wherein the active layer forms an oscillating section of the semiconductor laser device and consists of two to four quantum well layers and one to three barrier layers each interposed between the quantum well layers, and one or more of the barrier layers has a layer thickness of 4 nm or less, and

wherein the semiconductor laser device is a self-oscillating semiconductor laser device.

31-36. (Canceled)

37 (previously presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, wherein each of the quantum well layers has electrons and holes uniformly distributed therein.

38 (previously presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, wherein the semiconductor laser device is a self-oscillating semiconductor laser device.

39 (previously presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, further comprising a driving circuit for injecting an electric current into the semiconductor laser device.

40 (previously presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 39, wherein the electric current is a modulated current and a modulation frequency of the current is 300 MHz or more.

41 (previously presented). The gallium nitride semiconductor laser device according to claim 22, wherein said layer device generates a modulated optical output when an electric current is injected therein.

42-58 (canceled)

59 (previously presented). A gallium nitride semiconductor laser device having emission wavelengths within a band corresponding to ultraviolet to green and having a ridge structure, comprising:

an active layer having a quantum well structure and made of nitride semiconductor containing at least indium and gallium; and

an n-type cladding layer and a p-type cladding layer between which the active layer is disposed, said p-type cladding layer forming at least part of the ridge structure, wherein the active layer forms an oscillating section of the semiconductor laser device, and consists of two to four quantum well layers and one to three barrier layers each interposed between the quantum well layers, and the one or each barrier layer has a layer thickness of 4 nm or less, and

wherein the p-type cladding layer forms at least part of the ridge structure.

60 (canceled)